- Concerned District Magistrates have been authorised to draw the amount needed for relief work form Government Treasury.

- State Government has allocated Rs. 332.70 lakhs to Uttarkashi, Rs. 162.17 lakhs to Tehri, Rs. 92,60 lakhs to Chamoli, Rs. 7.70 lakhs to Dehradun and Rs. 4.60 lakhs to Pauri Garhwal for immediate relief.

- An amount of Rs. 747.00 lakhs allocated to various Departments for repairs/reconstruction of damaged properties.

- 7 mobile vehicles of essential commodities are deputed in different affected areas.

- 232 Medical Teams are working in these areas.

- 15 relief camps in Uttarkashi, 4 in Tehri and 5 in Chamoli have been opened.

- 20 Kg. of foodgrains distributed free of cost to each affected family.

- Ex-gratia payment of Rs. 20,000/- in case of each of death, Rs. 5,000/- in case of each seriously injured person and Rs. 2,000/- in case of each minor injured person.

- Rs. 20,000/- for each of fully damaged house and Rs. 5,000/- for each o partially damaged houses are undertaking repairs/ reconstruction work. The assistance of Rs. 20,000/- consists of Rs. 10,000/- cash, Rs. 3,000/- for tin-shed and Rs.7,000/- for timber.

- State Forest Department has distributed 534 Sq. Metres wood to Uttarkashi, 471 Sq. Metres to Tehri and 22 Sq. Metres to Chamoli for its use in building the houses.

- Assistance as house subsidy, gratuitous relief and ex-gratia payment has been provided amounting o Rs. 269.16 lakhs in Uttar Kashi, Rs. 107.03 lakhs in Tehri and Rs. 94.15 lakhs in Chamoli.

- Kerosine, flour, Rice, And Salt also being distributed.

- 33,605 numbers of Tarpaulines supplied to the affected districts.

- 67,354 numbers of Blankets supplied to the affected districts.

[*English*]

Commonwealth Heads of Government meet at Harare

*116. SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA:
SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the subjects discussed at the recent Commonwealth Heads of Government Meet (CHOGM) at Harare;

(b) the decision arrived at;

(c) the part played by the Indian delegation;

(d) whether the issues such as linking of economic aid to human rights and democratic reforms were also raised at the meeting; and

(e) if so the stand taken by India on these issues and the recommendations made by the CHOGM?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDURDO FALEIRO): (a) to (e). A Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) was held at Harare from October 16-22. The Central theme of the

Meeting was the 'Role of the Commonwealth in the 1990s and beyond'. Other major subjects discussed were: Global political trends in the light of recent changes in international relations, South Africa, disarmament, Uruguay Round, Environment and Commonweath Functional Cooperation.

The Harare Declaration reaffirms traditional emphasis on such issues as the struggle against and cooperation for development; at the same time it stresses the importance of democratic institutions, human rights and the rule of law.

On South Africa, the CHOGM endorsed the recommendations of the New Delhi meeting of the Commonwealth Committee of Foreign Ministers for a programmed management' and phased easing of sanctions.

The Indian delegation led by the Prime Minister , and which included the External Affairs Minister, played an active and constructive part. As a lead speaker on Global Political Review, the Prime Minister put across the perspective of the developing countries on the challenges of a changing world. The Indian Delegation contributed to securing a balanced declaration in line with our view of the future priorities of the Commonwealth.

The issues such as linking of economic aid to human rights were raised by some countries. Many countries, including India, do not consider such linkages appropriate. The CHOGM Communiqué does not contain any reference to such linkages.

Revision in Price of Steel

*117. SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN:
SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Steel Authority of India Ltd. and the Tata Iron & Steel Company Limited have approached the Union Government for revision in the price of steel;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL(SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Steel Authority of India has forwarded the proposal for revision of steel prices to the Ministry of steel. Tata Iron & Steel Company has forwarded the same to Chairman, Joint Plant Committee (JPC).

(b) It is not in the public interest to disclose the details.

(c) The proposals are under examination by the JPC.

Drought in Maharashtra and Gujarat

*118. SHRI SHARAD DIGHE:
SHRI RAM NAIK:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Maharashtra and Gujarat are facing unprecedented drought conditions at present;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these States have sought additional assistance from the Union Government to tackle the situation; and

(d) if so, the response of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) and (b). The State Government of Maharashtra reported that drought conditions have affected 12607 villages in 19 districts 141.47 lakh population and cropped area of 58.6 lakh hectares.

Government of Gujarat has reported that about 10,000 villages in 16 districts are